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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

- "(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;
- "(b) Desertification and drought;
- "(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;
- "(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- "(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session sub-item 96 (c) entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas" and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

3. The Second Committee held general discussions on the item at its 18th to 23rd, 34th, 35th and 39th meetings, on 30 and 31 October, from 1 to 3 November and on 15, 16 and 27 November 1995. The general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) was held at the 18th to 23rd meetings, on 30 and 31 October and from 1 to 3 November. The general discussion on sub-items (d) and (e) was held at the 34th and 35th meetings, on 15 and 16 November. The general discussion on sub-item (f) was held at the 39th meeting, on 27 November. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.18-23, 34, 35 and 39). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 3 and 4 and from 9 to 11 October (see A/C.2/50/SR.3-8).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/50/25); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/50/171);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring (A/50/371);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (A/C.2/50/2);

(f) Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995 (A/50/254-S/1995/501);

(g) Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (A/50/425-S/1995/787);

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25.

(h) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the official communiqué of the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995 (A/50/475);

(i) Letter dated 2 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1995 (A/50/518);

(j) Letter dated 18 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Statement of Intent for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Joint Implementation of Measures to Reduce Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by the Governments of the United States of America, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, signed on 9 June 1995 at San José (A/50/366);

(k) Letter dated 30 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a press release issued following the second meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 23 and 24 August 1995 (A/50/400);

(l) Note verbale dated 5 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents of the inaugural Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held at Port-of-Spain on 17 and 18 August 1995 (A/50/407);

(m) Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/50/6);

(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/50/3, chap. VI, sect. A); 2/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/515);

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 (A/50/453);

(d) Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/50/218);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/74 and Add.1);

(b) Desertification and drought

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/347);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/50/516);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/50/227-E/1995/99);

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/50/716 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/50/536);

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/50/422 and Add.1);

(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/201-E/1995/74);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the core functions of the secretariat of the Decade (A/50/521);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters (A/50/526).

5. At the 18th meeting, on 30 October, introductory statements on the item as a whole and on sub-items (a) and (b) were made by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director of the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (see A/C.2/50/SR.18).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 31 October, an introductory statement was made by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (see A/C.2/50/SR.20).

7. At the 34th meeting, on 15 November, introductory statements on sub-items (d) and (e) were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see A/C.2/50/SR.33).

8. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, an introductory statement on sub-item (f) was made by the Director of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (see A/C.2/50/SR.39).
